

DURHAM RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY JANUARY 16 2008

Chairperson Kate McLaughlin called the meeting to order @7:05 PM.

Members present: Kate McLaughlin, Linda Handley, Liz Cipollina, Cheryl Salva, Karen Kean (alt), Mike Doyle, Chris Manemeit, Brendan O'Connell (alt) and Sherry Hill.
Members absent: Joan Bowe, Ann Figoras, and Carol Herzig.

New members Doyle, Manameit, and O'Connell were introduced and welcomed.

Minutes from November meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Comments on the Holiday Tree Lighting were all positive. A success all around with plans to continue the tradition in December of 2008.

Wes Lee, a Durham resident and representative of BCI Burke Premier Play environments, gave a presentation on the various choices for playground equipment and designs for Allynbrook Park. An upgrade for the park has been planned for the last few years and funds allotted. Wes stated that playground design of late tends to lean towards being more active, engaging users in increased exercise and encouraging kids to be more participatory. Safety features, apparatus options, circuit play (moving from station to station), incorporating design elements into the trail, and playscape configuration were discussed. Catalogues are available in the Park and Rec office. Cost was also discussed, and hinges on the final choice of elements. Sherry Hill requested that Wes do a walk-through with committee members at some point to assess present and future safety needs. Further discussion on details and construction of a new playscape will continue at our next meeting.

The 2008-2009 Parks and Recreation Budget was discussed. Sherry Hill provided members with a packet detailing the budget. Two new line items were discussed in some detail: Family Movie Night in the summer and Allynbrook Park rules, regulations, and safety signage. Karen Kean moved for budget approval and Cheryl Salva seconded the motion. The motion passed and the new budget was approved.

Family Movie Night is a new program that will begin the summer of 2008. An independent company will supply the screen and projector. A family-friendly film will be shown after dusk on the lawn of Allynbrook Park. There was discussion of providing popcorn or other refreshments. Families will be encouraged to come, bring blankets, chairs, and a picnic and enjoy the film.

Sherry Hill has secured a price quote for a large and durable sign for Allynbrook Park. Placement and content were discussed and Sherry will provide us with more details at the next meeting. The goal is to get the sign in place by June. Sherry Hill also provided packets to new members containing safety and construction details regarding skateboard parks. All were asked to review the info for further discussion at a future date.

Mike Doyle brought up the possible use of Camp Farnum for Park and Rec programs in the future, particularly the pool. The committee plans to tour the facility in better weather.

Sherry Hill presented the 2008-2009 Recreation Meeting Schedule. Mike Doyle motioned for its approval. Karen Keane seconded and the schedule was approved.

Upcoming 2008 activities:

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ Town Hall 7:00PM

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Cipollina, Secretary

1/22/08